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WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Green Scare 2006: Who's scaring who?

THE MONKEYWRENCH AS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION

by Melissa Roberts

It should come as no shock that the US government has perfected the art of deception while simultaneously criminalizing dissent. The agenda is clear: the US government intends to protect those with wealth and power, and will do so by any means necessary. The past year alone has revealed a campaign which includes: warrantless wiretapping, Presidential "signing statements" that contradict laws passed by Congress, and secretive "declassification" of information with intent to harm high-level dissenters. In short, those in power—whose interests revolve around short-term profits at the expense of the long-term health of the planet and the majority of its inhabitants—are not to be hindered.

The Green Scare & "Operation Backfire"

A recent example is the "Green Scare," a modern-day witch hunt of environmentalists reminiscent of the McCarthy-era "Red Scare." December 7th, 2005, marked the beginning of the largest roundup of environmental and animal rights activists in US history. The FBI sting centered on incidents of sabotage allegedly committed by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) primarily in the Pacific Northwest—Eugene, Olympia, Seattle—and extending to Colorado and California. Two Olympia activists have been arrested. Unfortunately, this is only the beginning of the campaign's impact on the Olympia community.

The nationwide sweep of arrests, dubbed "Operation Backfire," is part of an FBI campaign against environmentalists who engage in a variety of tactics—including property destruction—as a means to defend wildlands, animals, and the integrity of the earth's delicate balance. But here's the clincher: they've been dubbed "terrorists". In his campaign send-off on January 20 of this year, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales issued a televised statement announcing a sweeping 65-count indictment that included conspiracy charges and declared "eco-terrorism" as "the number one domestic terrorist threat".

> Attorney General Gonzales... declared "eco-terrorism" as "the number one domestic terrorist threat."

Section 802 of the Patriot Act

The term "domestic terrorism" was used to describe the deadly Oklahoma City bombing. After the introduction of the Patriot Act, the term was redefined as "activities that involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping..."

According to Catherine Hazouri of the ACLU, "the current definition of terrorism is too broad. It sweeps up people who have no intent to harm human life, and this criminalizes dissent." Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center adds, "What's happened over the last few years is that both the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have said that 'eco-terrorism' is the number one domestic terrorist threat facing the United States. And in my opinion, that's simply ludicrous."

An April 13, 2006 "Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Homeland Security Assessment Bulletin" cuts to the heart of the agency's reasoning for labeling eco-activists as terrorists: "Attacks against corporations by animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists are costly to the targeted company and, over time, can undermine confidence in the economy."

The Bulletin goes on to advise corporations about the potential "attacks" they can expect to encounter—citing actions allegedly inflicted by the recently-targeted group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC): "Inundating a company's computer server with email, causing it to crash (estimated damage: $1.25 million); using an auto-dialer to overwhelm the telephone services of an investment firm—which prevented customers from calling; an email harassment campaign which demanded that a firm sell its shares of HLS stock (the company lost $1.4 million from the sale); jamming phone lines with repeated calls to prevent it from doing business with potential customers."

The Ruckus Society teaches a variety of civil disobedience skills, and founder John Sellers has this to say about the Green Scare: "The fact that the FBI and the Attorney General...can stand there with straight

▸ **Green Scare** continued on page 9

United States Postal Service, Incorporated?

ACTION IS NEEDED TO SAVE OUR MAIL SERVICE

by Clint Burelson

The Postal Rate Commission has scheduled hearings beginning on Thursday, June 15, 2006, regarding the United States Postal Service plans to reduce mail service nationwide in conjunction with the closing and/or consolidating of facilities across the country. The decision by Postal Rate Commissioners following the hearings will influence mail service in Olympia. Individuals, organizations, and small businesses are encouraged to write or contact the Postal Rate Commission and express their opposition to any reduction in mail service.

Nationwide consolidation of mail sorting

The Postal Service, urged on by big advertising mailers like Time Warner, plans to close or consolidate mail processing facilities or mail processing functions, usually the outgoing mail, into large regional hubs spread sparsely throughout the country. In some cases, the mail will travel over 100 miles before coming back to the original town for delivery. Traffic will also increase the additional time. The Postal Service acknowledges that First Class mail will be delayed as a result of the consolidations, but argues that alleged savings justify the reduction in service.

If the Olympia example is any indication, the savings argument is false. Locally, the union has used the USPS's own documents to show that there will be little if any savings in transferring outgoing mail sorting functions to Tacoma.

Impact of mail service reductions to Olympia

The Olympia Plant currently sorts the mail for all the 985 zip codes (Aberdeen, Centralia, etc.). The USPS plan is to sort the mail in Tacoma and eventually in Seattle. For the average citizen not living near a hub, a delay in mail service could mean a delay in receiving medicine, income checks, and other important business and legal correspondence. A delay in mail service could also result in financial penalties to citizens for late property tax payments, IRS payments, credit card bills, and other payments. In addition, Washington State residents vote by mail and all ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. If the postmark is not applied in a timely manner, then ballots would be invalidated and a person's vote would not be counted.

Because of earlier cut-off times for the additional transportation to Tacoma (or eventually Seattle), State agencies, businesses and organizations that do large discounted mailings will be faced with the unpleasant choice of paying extra postage or delaying the mail if they don't meet the earlier cut-off time. As reported in a November 4, 2005 article in *The Olympian*, Consolidated Mail, a Washington State agency, has predicted a cost of approximately $2 million if the proposal to transfer the mail goes through. This cost will ultimately be paid by everyone in the state and was not included in USPS calculations.

Large mailers to benefit with more discounts

The plans to consolidate mail processing facilities originated and/or are supported by large corporate mailers because it will reduce the number of sites where they need to drop off their mail and is expected to provide additional discounts associated with contracting out postal work as an ever-increasing volume of mail processing is contracted out. This privatization of the Postal Service means that much of the work formerly performed by postal workers making a living wage is now performed by private sector workers making little more than minimum wage. The big mailers have pocketed the difference in wages and are looking for more. The loss of unions and their voice of opposition to corporate values is also a win for corporations.

In addition, as part of their business, the large advertising mailers generally do not send their mail from mail boxes and are comfortable with reducing service to those that do in order to get benefits for themselves.

Market principles to replace community principles

Consolidation is therefore a big and significant step in the direction of what Time Warner calls "deaveraging" the costs. Time Warner and other corporations want to increase the use of "market principles" in the Postal Service. Currently, "family or community principles," although diminished, still prevail somewhat. For example, citizens in every town get 6-day mail delivery and good service wherever they live. The consolidation plan will change that by reducing service to the communities that are not right near the hubs. People paying the same 39 cents for a stamp will no longer get the same service.

Corporate mailers want to see the USPS increase service and decrease rates to the high volume corporate mailers and decrease service and increase rates for the individual and small mailers. This will make it harder for individuals and non-profit organizations to conduct their business and express their views at affordable rates.

Reducing service to the public, a consequence of consolidation, is another way of putting "market principles" into what should be a public service. This strategy of reducing service to the general public is familiar for members of the community who have witnessed the seemingly deliberate short staffing of counter help at the Post Office and the signs directing customers to contract stations.

Action needed

What we are facing here is the gradual downsizing and privatization of an essential and revered public institution. Citizen input is urgently needed. Individuals, organizations, and small businesses are encouraged to write or contact the Postal Rate Commission and express their opposition to any reduction in mail service. A sample letter could look like this:

> Postal Rate Commission
> 901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
> Washington, DC 20268
>
> Subject: Docket N2006-1 – Mail Consolidations
>
> Dear Commissioners,
>
> The purpose of this letter is to urge the Postal Rate Commission to rule against the United States Postal Service request to reduce mail service through closures and consolidation of USPS facilities across the country. [*Additional comments are optional*.]
>
> Sincerely,
> Jane Citizen

Other options to contact PRC are:

> Phone: 202-789-6800
> FAX: 202-789-6886
> Internet: www.prc.gov/contact.asp

More information can be found at *www.lunewsviews.com/olympia.htm* or *www.postalmag.com/olympia.htm*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *wip@zhonka.net* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Get your catalog of indexed *WIP*'s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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On the cover: Green Scare graphic by Melissa Roberts. Britney Spears appears courtesy of TimeWarner. ***See stories on page 1.***

Neo-Nazis Joel Purdue (in the sunglasses) and Gary Nemeth (giving the Vulcan salute) on the Capitol steps, April 2. Photo by Ben Guss. ***See story on page 4.***

Back cover photo by Sandy Mayes.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: May 26

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, May Day!
See May Day events on page 6.

Clothesline Project
Sat., April 29, 10 am–5 pm at Sylvester Park

A visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations, designed by women survivors of violence or by someone who loves a woman who has been killed. The purpose is to increase awareness of the impact of violence against women, to celebrate a woman's strength to survive and to provide another avenue for her to break the silence that often surrounds her experience. The Clothesline Project is for people of **all** genders to express their experiences. Everyone has been affected by sexual violence—we honor everyone coming forward to share this. Painting supplies and t-shirts will be available at the event for people to design. Trained advocates will be available. Sponsored by Partners in Prevention Education (www.youthchangeagents.org), Evergreen Women's Resource Center, and Office of Sexual Violence Prevention (www.evergreen.edu/health/osap)

Olympia Film Society—What You Got!
May 5–7 at the Capitol Theater, 206 E. 5th Ave

The 3rd Annual Olympia 21 & Under Fest. Tickets range $3-8 per event. See the program for more details.

www.olyfilm.org/whatyougot

Wal-Mart: the high cost of low price
Sunday, May 7, 4:00 pm, at the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price is a feature length documentary that uncovers a retail giant's assault on families and American values. The film dives into the deeply personal stories and everyday lives of families and communities struggling to fight a goliath.

Hosted by the Social Justice Committee of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Committee. Contact: Howard Rosenfeld, (360) 786-8059 or hrstruggle@comcast.net

Alliance for Democracy movie night
Sun., May 7, 6:00 pm
Traditions Fair Trade Café, 300 5th Ave.

The South Sound chapter of Alliance for Democracy is showing **Life and Debt**, a documentary about the economic results of IMF sanctions in Jamaica. 80 minutes. (http://imdb.com/title/tt0284262) Discussion will follow the film. Alliance for Democracy: www.SoundDemocracy.org

Sprint 2006 grant cycle
The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County announces the Spring 2006 grant cycle. Grant applications are available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community-oriented activities. Deadline is May 12. Grant criteria and application forms available on request from Traditions (5th & Water St.) or www.traditionsfairtrade.com.

Ending homelessness or making war: we can't do both
Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way

Thurston County is working on a 10-year plan to end homelessness. To end homelessness in Thurston County, we need to address factors leading to it—loss of jobs, lack of affordable housing, lack of adequate health care. Join us for a town-hall conversation and brainstorming session to help shape the future of our county's priorities. Contact smithginjer@turbotek.net or tcpraxis@comcast.net

Olympia Community Youth Services garage sale
Sat., May 13, 11:00 am–3:00 pm, in the parking lot of Community Youth Services (711 State Ave NE)

Fundraiser for Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE). Items for sale include: clothes for toddlers to adults, kids toys for inside and outside play, kitchen materials and hidden treasures. PiPE provides crisis support services, violence prevention education and other opportunities to homeless and at-risk youth and young adults ages 12-24 in Thurston County and is a program of Bread & Roses. All donations tax-deductible. Contact: Rosalinda Noriega, Partners in Prevention, 943-0780 ext. 205. www.youthchangeagents.org

Protest Trident submarine and other nuclear weapons
Sunday, May 14 to Monday, May 15
See page 5 for story and information.

Motherhood at the Brotherhood
Mother's Day, Sun., May 14, 4:00–7:00 pm
Brotherhood Tavern, 119 Capitol Way

A fantastic party and fundraiser for WROC! Entertainment by mamas, free childcare with entertainment and fun activities! Call WROC for more information, to get involved, or if you are a mama performer. 360-352-9716, toll free 866-343-9716, wrocoly@wroc.org, www.wroc.org

First annual Mother's Day Tea
May 14, 1:00–3:00pm
Heritage Park, between 4th and 5th Ave

Honor mothers past and present as we gather to remember the history of the day. We plan to host 150–200 people. With seating and tables of cloth linens and flowers, we will provide service of tea and tasty finger foods under umbrellas and tents. Live music and a dramatic reading of the "Mother's Day Proclamation" will be presented. FREE. We will host on a first come, first serve basis. Rain or Shine. Presented by Fertile Ground Community Center and many generous community sponsors. Media encouraged to attend. Photo opportunities available. Info: www.teaforchange, or call Ellen Turner at (360) 357-6223.

Book discussion: *Megatrends 2010*
Monday, May 15, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End

In **Megatrends 2010**, Patricia Aburdene, co-author of the bestselling **Megatrends 2000**, investigates 7 new trends that will redefine business in the coming decade. Significant numbers of both new-economy and old-guard companies are tapping into the wave of conscious capitalism to clean up the corporate image, accelerate innovation, honor their employees, save the environment—and boost the bottom line.

Sponsored by OUUC Social Justice Committee, as part of the series on "Consumerism with a Conscience". Support a local business and buy your book at Orca Books in downtown Olympia. **Ask for the OUUC Social Justice Committee 10% discount!** Or check out a copy from the Timberland Regional Library. Contact: socialjustice@olyuu.org.

Olympia CISPES delegates report back from El Salvador
Monday, May 15th at 7:30 pm
Traditions Cafe (corner of 5th and Water St.)

In March 2006, 10 members of the Oly chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) participated in a delegation to observe the elections and to hear first-hand from the FMLN (the revolutionary party in El Salvador) and social movement organizations about the political, economic, and social conditions and struggles in El Salvador. We would like to share our experiences and learning with the community. Please join us! CISPES: 867-6724

On common ground: Katrina & the Pacific Northwest
May 27, doors open at 6:30 pm. Festivities at 7 pm. Capitol Theater, 206 E 5th Ave, downtown.

Evening of discussion, music, and solidarity with the people of New Orleans and Gulf Coast. Guest speakers: Malik Rahim, founder of the Common Ground Collective in New Orleans, and Jerome Scott, Executive Director of Project South in Atlanta and host of the June 2007 US Social Forum. $8.00 OFS members, $10.00 general admission. Advance tickets at Rainy Day Records and Traditions Café. Tickets will be available at the box office night of show. More info: Dan Leahy (360) 402-0441. All proceeds go the Common Ground Collective Advance.

TC Pro-Net second annual Memorial Day networking picnic
Monday, May 29, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Gwinwood Retreat Center on Hicks Lake, 6015 30th Ave SE, off Ruddell Rd and 25th Ave SE, Lacey

Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net), a local organization dedicated to uniting the efforts of area activists, invites everyone to share a day of live music, boating, canoing and kayaking, picnic games, workshops, and community networking. Share food & beverages. Lunch is at 12:30 pm. Nonprofit organizations are invited to set up and staff informational tables. For table arrangements, contact Chris Stegman at (360) 705-3528. Event contact: Sherri Goulet, (360) 352-8225. www.tcpronet.org

Health care debate
Tues., June 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
United Churches, 110 11th Avenue SE
Single Payer vs Health Savings Accounts as the way to provide high quality health care for everybody in the US.

Moderator Deborah Vinsel, Excecutive Director TCTV (Thurston Community Television)

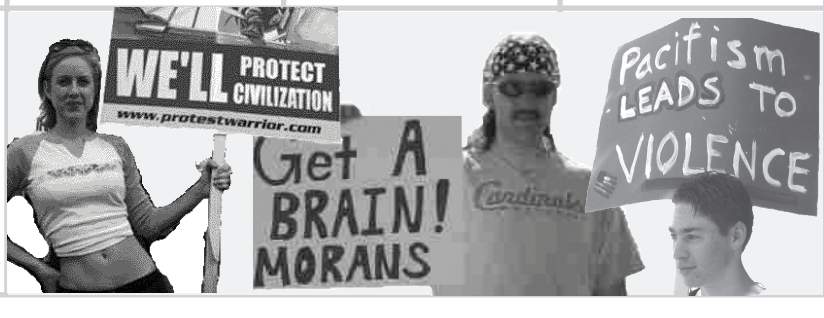
Single Payer viewpoint: Aaron Katz—former Director of the Health Policy Analysis Program of the UW School of Health and Community Medicine, currently editor-in-chief Northwest Public Health and director of the Packard-Gates Population Leadership Program.

Health Saving Account viewpoint: Paul Guppy, Vice President for Research, Washington Policy Center; former Capitol Hill Chief of Staff and Legislative Director.

The main organizer, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, believes this debate will be an important contribution to public understanding of possible solutions to a crisis about which there is a great deal of public confusion.

May 2006

They're not listening

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 2005: Israel stages raids into Tulkarem, northern West Bank town 2005: Millions stage May Day celebrations worldwide	**2** 2005: Pentagon admits military is stressed to a high risk of not meeting operational goals and difficulty in dealing w/ additional foes	**3** 2000: Clinton will not require GE labeling 2005: Fed statistics show Drug War shifted from hard drugs to marijuana in 1/2 of arrests	**4** 1970: Kent State 2005: Government-funded research tested AIDS drugs on hundreds of foster children over past two decades	**5** 1997: Jury in FL finds RJ Reynolds Tobacco not responsible for smoker's death; RJR cigarettes not "unreasonably dangerous, defective"	**6** 2005: Pastor of Baptist church in NC led effort to remove church members not supporting GW Bush; 9 members voted out
7 1999: 3 NATO missiles hit Chinese embassy in Belgrade; 3 dead, 2001: California has first rolling blackouts since March	**8** 1958: VP Nixon pelted w/ fruit in Lima, Peru 1999: NATO officials blame Chinese embassy bombing on "intelligence failure"	**9** 1999: CIA blamed for Chinese Embassy bombing; NATO continues air strikes; US embassy burns in China	**10** 1999: China suspends contacts w/ US; Clinton apologizes again; Belgrade announces a partial withdrawal of troops from Kosovo	**11** 1963: MLK's brother's home bombed 2003: Gen Richard Myers claims WMDs may still be in the hands of Iraqi Special Units	**12** 2005: US sailor who refused to go to Iraq gets 90 days hard labor 2005: Fed judge strikes down Nebraska's ban on gay marriage	**13** 1958: Nixon is attacked by hundreds of anti-US demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela, who hurl melon-sized rocks at his limousine
14 1999: NATO bombs village housing troops, Albanian refugees; 79 killed; NATO announces regret of accidental deaths	**15** 2005: Boston Globe survey reveals half of Americans disapprove of gay and lesbian marriage; only 37 percent approved	**16** 1998: NAACP takes stand against Washington's I-200 which would prohibit affirmative action by the state	**17** 1961: Castro offers to trade prisoners captured in Bay of Pigs invasion for 500 US tractors 1999: Makah successful in taking first whale	**18** 2005: Brazilian gov report shows deforestation in the Amazon rain forest in 2004 was the second-worst year ever	**19** 2005: Massachusetts Legislature finally repeals a 330-year-old law that barred Native Americans from entering Boston	**20** 1961: Mob attacks Freedom Riders 20, 1996: 200 rally at Capitol to protest inadequate funding to stop children abuse
21 2005: Hamas agrees to stop mortar and rocket attacks on Israeli settlements and towns near Gaza Strip restoring a cease fire	**22** 1995: Supreme Court overturns term limits 2005: US warplanes in Afghanistan cross the border into Pakistan and kill fleeing insurgents	**23** 1961: 27 Freedom Riders arrested 2001: Striking state workers shut down Evergreen; most classes are canceled	**24** 2003: Demonstrators throw stones at US embassy in Afghanistan protesting 3 shooting death of afghan soldiers by US Marines	**25** 2005: Syria's UN ambassador announces Syria has arrested more than 1,200 people trying to cross the border into Iraq in recent weeks	**26** 2005: Judge rules treasurer of political committee formed by TomDeLaydidn'treport $600,000 in corporate contributions	**27** 2005: Condoleezza Rice says Bolton has rough edges but backs nomination so he can promote needed reform
28 1955: Director of United Steelworkers tells New Jersey audience that automation of nation's factories will lead to a 2-hour work day	**29** 2003: W/o bidding, Halliburton receives $425 contract for work in Iraq from the Pentagon 2004: Tillman killed by friendly fire revealed	**30** 2005: Cheney defends prisoner treatment at Guantanamo saying they have been "well treated" and that some accusations were lies	**31** 2005: The identity of Deep Throat revealed as being Mark Felt, the number 2 man at the FBI during the Watergate Scandal in the 1970s.			

Defeating the Nazis

by building a movement for racial, economic and social justice and equality

by Peter Bohmer

On Sunday, April 2, a counter-demonstration, led by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP), ran the neo-Nazi, National Socialist Movement (NSM) out of our town. The NSM has targeted Olympia as a major location for demonstrating their white-supremacist and anti-Jewish message and as a place where they hope to recruit disaffected white youth.

They first attempted to rally in Olympia on January 22 of this year. We found out 24 hours before the scheduled rally of their plans. On the 22nd, the nine of them who appeared were surrounded by 200 community members who verbally but not physically challenged their message of racial hate. They left after about an hour.

The NSM announced soon after the rally that they were coming to Olympia on July 2–4 of this year at the State Capitol, where they have invited the Klu Klux Klan and racist skinheads from around the country to join them. Although very small, the NSM is one of the most active of the white supremacist groups in terms of actions and recruiting. Their organization will be meeting in Lansing, Michigan from April 20–22.

A few days before April 2, the NSM announced they were returning to Olympia on that day in memory of Rachel Corrie, an Olympia resident killed by the Israeli military in March 16, 2003 as she was standing in front of a house in Rafah in Gaza that the Israelis planned to demolish. The NSM was opportunistically using Rachel's name to try to gain support.

In the flyer we handed out to many residents, we included the following quote from Rachel Corrie from January 19, 2003: "I also think it is extraordinarily important to draw a firm distinction between the policies of Israel as a state, and the Jewish people...I try to ask myself—whose interests does it serve to identify Israeli policy with all Jewish people?....It serves people who want to stifle all critiques of Israeli policy...and neo-Nazis who want to use Israel's policy as a way to justify their hate."

On Sunday, April 2, at a rally, organized by various local groups including, Unity in the Community and OMJP, a message of challenging racism, of celebrating diversity and equality was held. Cindy Corrie, Rachel's mother was a featured speaker. About 200 attended. Other people were rovers, roving Olympia to find out where the neo-Nazis were going to show. The eight Nazis were located as they arrived from Seattle and approached the State Capitol.

The Washington State Police stood between the neo-Nazis and the growing numbers of anti-Nazi protesters. Shouts by us of "One race, the human race", "Not in our town, not in any town", and "Nazis out" drowned out their "white power" and "seig heil" chants. After about 25 minutes, they left under police escort. We hope the NSM does not return—but in any case, we are committed to doing more to further racial, economic and social justice.

> We live in a time with a very right-wing government—the ones in power with suits and ties are much more dangerous than the Nazis, and we need to challenge both.

What follows is the talk I gave at Heritage Park as the neo-Nazis were arriving in Olympia.

Thank You for coming! I am here today for many reasons. My mom and dad grew up Jewish in Austria in the 1930s. In 1938, when my dad was 22, the Nazis marched into Austria. He was arrested for being active in the Jewish community of Vienna, and was in four prisons over five months. He was beaten many times by the Nazis; my mom got him out, which was still possible in 1938. They went immediately to France and then came to New York City in 1939 where I was born and lived through high school. Many of our relatives like my uncle went to concentration camps; some survived, some were killed. My grandfather hid in a farm in Czechoslovakia where he died from cancer during World War II. I am here today for them.

My parents believe in the dignity of all humans but feel very powerless, fatalistic. On the other hand, growing up in the 1960s together with my background and family values they instilled in me, my response was different from theirs. "Never Again" to me means fighting and organizing against all oppression. As the US fought its murderous war against Vietnam it meant organizing with all of my energy against that war. Thirty-five years later, challenging oppression also means opposing the US criminal war in Iraq. I would say that we in the United States have even more of a responsibility to speak up than Germans did during the Hitler era because information is more available here in the US and repression isn't as great; understanding that repression in the US is greater against Blacks and people of color than whites.

Coming of age in the 1960s also brought home to me how central racism has been to the past and present United States, and that challenging racism is key to any fundamental change in this country. Racism today in the United States is still central to the US political economy—look at black and Latino and Native American unemployment and poverty rates which are more than twice that of whites. So, while opposing the vile racism of the Nazis, let us also oppose the racism of this Administration that destroys affirmative action and guts public housing and social programs, that lets poor people and particularly poor black people die in New Orleans during Katrina. Let us also remember that not only Tim Eyman but the majority of white people voted to end affirmative action in Washington State in 1998. We need to support affirmative action as we oppose the Nazis.

We need to challenge the racist anti-immigrant hysteria as expressed by the Minuteman, by a planned anti-immigrant initiative in Washington State and by the Sensenbrenner bill, HR4437, which passed the US House of Representatives and is being considered by the US Senate. It would make felons of immigrants who come here seeking jobs and also those who help them; it would spend billions on a wall and an even more militarized border between Mexico and the United States. Let us defeat this bill. We also cannot allow Muslims and Arabs to be targeted and repressed. Let us be inspired and show support for the growing immigrant rights movement that is national in scope, e.g., the million people who marched in Los Angeles last Sunday, March 26th, and the many tens of thousands in New York yesterday, April 1st. My son Filemón calls it the New Civil Rights Movement. So let us defeat the Nazis by showing they are the tip of a virulent disease of racism and build a stronger movement for racial justice in Olympia and beyond.

> Let us defeat the Nazis by showing they are the tip of a virulent disease of racism and build a stronger movement for racial justice in Olympia and beyond.

A great German Marxist, August Bebel, once said that anti-Semitism is the socialism of fools. That certainly fits the neo-Nazi, National Socialist Movement (NSM). They have put my name, home and office address and phone number and pictures of me on their website, *www.nukeisrael.com*, and call me a "kike" and "Jew boy" on it. Other names are also listed there. Nevertheless, I spoke to one of their members when he called me, two days before their planned rally in Olympia. He talked about low wages and insecure jobs of white people and how immigrants are overrunning this country. I told him that they were blaming and targeting immigrants, Blacks, Jews, Mexicans, lesbians and gays (LGBT), and the disabled rather than those who have the power—the wealthy capitalist elites and the multinational corporations. He didn't listen. The national part of their name, which to them means white, dominates the socialist. They are trying to recruit disaffected white non-

▸ **Nazis** continued on the following page

Demonstrators chant anti-Nazi slogans as they march from Sylvester Park to join a Pro-Unity rally at Heritage Park, April 2. (*photo by Ben Guss*)

Eight neo-Nazis are removed from the Capitol steps by the Washington State Patrol Civil Disturbance Response Team ("riot cops") for demonstrating without a permit and creating a disturbance, as counter-protesters rallied in response to their presence, April 2. (*photo by Sandy Mayes*)

Long Hair David's case is finally settled

by Drew Hendricks

"Long Hair" David Fawver was finally offered a plea bargain by the Thurston County Prosecutor, to which he pleaded on Monday, April 10, before Judge Paula Casey.

The case stems from a misunderstanding in Sylvester Park in February of 2004, which resulted in charges being laid against Long Hair for assaulting one of three Washington State Troopers who confronted him. The alleged victim is Sgt. Michael Dahl, who heads the WSP's Capitol Campus unit.

Long Hair plead to two misdemeanor charges: obstructing an officer and possession of an apparent weapon. The 6-inch bundle of sage Long Hair was using in his religious observance was taken to be a flaming plank by the frightened professional police officers, who attacked Long Hair by kicking him so hard he flew backwards onto the ground, where he was handcuffed. He was held in jail for about 24 hours, and released on his own recognizance. Then he was charged with a third degree felony, assault of an officer.

For most of the last two years, Long Hair's activism has suffered as he assumed that this felony, which would have been his third, would end up putting him in prison for the rest of his life. His assigned counsel Michael Jordan of Tacoma did little to assure him of any other fate. After numerous public appeals, a local anonymous donor stepped up and paid private attorney LeGrand Jones to represent Long Hair. A deal was struck, and on Monday David apologized to the court and accepted that deal.

Long Hair will serve at least 240 hours of community service, with a minimum of 40 hours per month, to work off that debt to society, plus a $250 crime victim's fee and court costs of around $110.

As the founder of the Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project (EGYHOP), Long Hair is familiar with long hours spent serving his community as a volunteer. He's been serving people on the street, regardless of any consideration other than need, for almost 12 years now. In his apology, Long Hair noted that he had 'failed to serve my community in the best way I could—I treat homeless people downtown with compassion every day, I should not have lost that compassion just because someone was wearing a uniform.'

The officers who misunderstood Long Hair's religious practice and took the sage bundle's sparks to be a cigarette dropping to the ground were not in court to offer their part of the apology. That's why we call it the "Just Us" System.

Long Hair David in his "bike shop." Among many other community outreach projects, Long Hair David founded the EGYHOP Bike Project, which repairs and distributes free bikes to low/no income people.

Judge declares mistrial for four Oly peace activists

On the afternoon of April 12, Judge Daniel Phillips in Kitsap County District Court in Port Orchard, declared a "mistrial" in the trial of four peace activists who were charged with failure to disperse.

The four were charged for a demonstration on the morning of August 8, 2005, in which 19 demonstrators blocked the highway entrance to the Bangor Trident submarine base with a long banner that stated, "We Can All Live Without Trident." The demonstration was in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Incoming traffic was blocked for approximately 40 minutes during peak traffic, when Navy personnel and support personnel were arriving for work at the base.

The trial began in Port Orchard on April 10. After five hours of deliberation the judge learned the jurors' opinions were divided. On April 12 at 2:30 pm, Judge Daniel Phillips declared a mistrial.

In a strange turn of events, the Kitsap County prosecutor had charged only four of the nineteen demonstrators...all four from Olympia. The charge was for failure to disperse, RCW 9A.84.020, in which the failure to disperse when ordered creates a "substantial risk" of injury to persons or to property. The charge is a misdemeanor with a possible penalty of 90 days in jail and a $1,000 fine.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Deputy Scott Wilson testified in court that traffic on August 8 had backed up as far as the northbound lanes of Highway 3. Ground Zero Peace activists expressed their deeply held beliefs concerning the threat of nuclear weapons and the Trident submarine system. They also explained their careful preparation for each demonstration to ensure the safety of both motorists and participants.

The four who were tried are Alice Zillah, 32, Bryce Brown, 32, Shannon Bushnell, 28, and Patricia Imani, 43, all of Olympia.

On the morning of April 24, Kitsap County Prosecutor Jeff Jahns sent word through e-mail to the Olympia Four's lawyer, Ken Kagan, stating he would "have orders entered tomorrow (April 25) dismissing with prejudice the 4 defendants' cases...the bottom line is: based on the facts from the August 8, 2005 incident, the prosecution is unable to prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt."

The notorious Oly Four—Patricia Imani, Bryce Brown, Alice Zillah, Shannon Bushnell—at the Kitsap County courthouse during their trial for failure to disperse at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Bangor. (*photo by Scott Yoos*)

In addition the prosecutor stated that his office would not be charging any of the other 15 peace activists also arrested (but not prosecuted) that day, August 8, 2005 in front of the Bangor Nuclear Base, or any of those arrested during Ground Zero's Martin Luther King Day Action in March (including six from Olympia).

The trial marked the first charges against nonviolent demonstrators since February 2000. Kitsap County prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor in the last three attempts before this trial.

The next Ground Zero at Bangor Nuclear Base will be Sunday and Monday, May 15 and 16 (with community building and nonviolence training taking place Sunday, and Monday morning being the primary time of action). Given the US's present threats to use nuclear bunker busters on the people of Iraq, it is a good time to act.

For more info visit *www.gzcenter.org*.

Protest the Trident submarine and other nuclear weapons

Participate in the Mother's Day action and vigil—Sunday, May 14 and Monday, May 15.

Sunday, May 14

Noon: Vigil at Bangor gate.

3:00 pm: Program featuring Raging Grannies and vignettes of history of Mother's Day, at the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4418 Perry Ave, Bremerton.

4:00–9:00 pm: Nonviolence training, supper provided. Sleep at church.

Monday, May 15

5:00 am: Nonviolent direct action at Ground Zero.

For more information:
Alice Zillah (360) 357-7705 in Olympia
Glen Milner (206) 365-7865 in Seattle

▸ **Nazis** continued from the previous page

Jewish youth, promising them power and also better jobs, health care, education for whites and some handy scapegoats.

We must build a movement that is about more than just peace and tolerance but one that challenges all oppression and fights for a living wage, for health care for all, for free and quality education through college, for affordable housing, for reproductive rights and taxing the wealthy in the short run. And in the longer run, we should organize for a system that is not capitalist, that is sustainable and based on production for need, not a system based on production for profit. We should NOT support business Democrats like Senator Maria Cantwell and corporate democracy but real democracy. Otherwise the NSM and the Republican Party wins. We need to fight against the war at home as we work to stop US wars abroad.

The neo-Nazi NSM on their web-site supports Palestine and is totally hostile to Israel. The reason is their hatred of Jews which comes through on every page. I am angered by this as I am equally angered by their hatred of Black people and other oppressed people. An Injury to One is an Injury to All. On the other hand, I was also offended on January 22, when the NSM came to Olympia, that an anti-Nazi protester said I was a hypocrite because I opposed the Nazis and Israel—I guess they meant that opposing the Nazis should mean supporting Israel. NO, NO, NO! It shouldn't. In fact, my background as the child of holocaust survivors has led me to support the struggle by Palestinians for self-determination, for a nation in all of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza and with the "right of return" by Palestinians. Remembering how Jews have been so oppressed in Europe has made the Israeli oppression of the Palestinian people, the daily humiliation of Palestinians, the seizing of most of their land, the Israeli denial of self-determination, particularly upsetting to me—although that is what happens when you take someone's land as Israel has done. We are supporting Palestinian human rights and nationhood for totally different reasons than the neo-Nazis. This is what Rachel Corrie did; she supported a Palestinian state as she opposed anti-Semitism. Let us follow this example.

I am a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, (OMJP). We believe that without justice there can be no peace. We welcome you to our meetings, which are the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Olympia Free School, 601 South Columbia St. Our website is *www.omjp.org*. We live in a time with a very right-wing government—the ones in power with suits and ties are much more dangerous than the Nazis and we need to challenge both. We also have an opportunity in this crucial period to dialog with the great majority of people in the United States who are against the US war against Iraq and who are being taken advantage of by the Bush administration which is taking from the needy and giving it all to the greedy. Talking to your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers about what is going on and how to change it is a start.

OMJP believes that the neo-Nazis are not welcome in our town or any town. We intend to surround them today in Olympia—they have just arrived—and non-violently project through our actions a message that they are not welcome and we will turn their rally of hate and white supremacy into an anti-racist one that is about racial, social and economic justice. The NSM has said they will return in early July in Olympia. One of our ideas is to have a Festival of Life, a physical place just before and while the NSM is here of music, art, workshops, networking, popular education, where people can camp out, learn from each other about challenging oppression and working for liberation and opposing the NSM and other white supremacists, that is also a base for creative protest against them. We need energy and ideas. Join us.

Not in any town, not in Rachel's name!
Thank You.

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EVERY MOTHER IS A WORKING MOTHER

In Venezuela, let every day be Mother's Day

by Cory Fischer-Hoffman

A delegation of 70 women from the Global Women's Strike, an organization formed to win economic and social recognition for unwaged caring work, stood together in the community of La Padera, Venezuela, awaiting news. Global Women's Strike member Juanita Romero explained that President Hugo Chávez had just announced what we had all been waiting for: implementation of Article 88 of Venezuela's Bolivarian Constitution.

Article 88 in the Bolivarian Constitution declares: "The State guarantees equality and equity between men and women in the exercise of their right to work. The State recognizes work in the home as an economic activity that creates added values and produces social welfare and wealth. Housewives are entitled to Social Security."

Coinciding with the Global Women's Strike's delegation on February 2, in a speech delivered in the Teresa Careño theater in Caracas, Hugo Chávez proclaimed that on the first of May, International Worker's Day, 100,000 Venezuelan female heads of households would receive 380,000 Venezuelan Bolivares per month ($185). This is about 80 percent of the Venezuelan minimum wage. In the following six months, another 100,000 women will begin to receive payments in recognition of their work.

On May 1, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) will join Labor, Immigrants and other social justice activists to celebrate this victory! At 3:00 pm, in Sylvester Park, there will be a rally with music, speakers and interactive booths, followed by a festive march. "We invite all mothers, all who came from mothers and all people who appreciate the work of mothering to join us!" says Monica Peabody, a community organizer with WROC. "After all, mothers are the ultimate workers!" WROC will be marching under the banner "Every Mother is a Working Mother"("Toda madre es madre trabajadora!") in the Mama Bloc.

"Caring for others is accomplished by a dazzling array of skills in an endless variety of circumstances. As well as cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundering, planting, tending, harvesting for others, women comfort and guide, nurse and teach, arrange and advise, discipline and encourage, fight for and pacify. Taxing and exhausting under any circumstances, this service work, this emotional housework, is done both outside and inside the home," said Selma James, international coordinator of the Global Women's Strike.

Besides the work in the home, the caring work of women in the community serves as a base of the Bolivarian Revolution. In the community of Los Teques, like so many others, this vital work is overwhelmingly led by women. While President Hugo Chavez has claimed that he will "eliminate poverty by giving power to the poor," in Los Teques, a city that is both rich and poor, urban and rural, the poor are not waiting to be given the power—they are taking it.

At the bottom of a steep hill, Sylvia Gonzales Rodriguez met the 70 women from the Strike with a big smile. She is in charge of the "food house," which feeds 150 people in the community, mostly people who are unemployed, have drug addictions, are pregnant or nursing women. She works with four other women preparing hot food from scratch with the staples she receives from the state subsidized food program, called MERCAL.

This food kitchen is an integral part of all of the other Missions. If there are children or parents receiving food who have never learned how to read and write, they are integrated into the Educational Missions. If there are unemployed people who lack certain skills, they are integrated into Vuelvan Caras, the Mission that provides job training to establish cooperatives.

In addition to mothering three children and running the food house, Sylvia is a midwife. She receives no wages for her work, which is so essential to taking care of her family and community. "This is the basis of the [Bolivarian] process, that you learn by doing," Sylvia added.

We asked many of the women how they sustained themselves. Some women were married and shared in the low wages of their husbands, others worked in the informal economy—selling food or doing domestic work. Most of the women were forced to obtain some waged work.

WROC has long been protesting the oppressive cycle that forces women to place their children into under-funded childcare and themselves into low-wage work; instead low-income women demand that the care they provide for their children and communities be acknowledged, valued, and remunerated. Motherwork is Work!

Although before welfare reform, AFDC (Assistance to Families with Dependent Children) provided some safety net for families in poverty, in many cases, it was not enough to live off of.

In 1996, then-President Bill Clinton, the son of a single-mother, "changed Welfare as we know it." Mothers lost their entitlement to benefits, with states administering welfare, slashing budgets, enforcing degrading and exploitative work programs, inflicting strict sanctions, and in some cases establishing a life-time time limit for receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.) Mothers who have access to benefits still struggle to live off of the insufficient cash assistance programs.

The lesson from Venezuela is that it is these very same women who are fighting for better schools, for health care, and for community control of resources. Out of their commitment to justice, to their families, and to their communities, they are building the basis of a caring economy.

Nora Castañeda, president of the Women's Development Bank in Venezuela, says "The economy must be at the service of human beings, not human beings at the service of the economy. We are building an economy based on cooperation and mutual support, a caring economy. And since 70 percent of those who live in conditions of poverty in the world are women, economic changes must start with women." WROC will have her book, *Creating a Caring Economy*, available for sale at May Day.

Please join WROC to celebrate the implementation of Article 88, and the labor of Motherhood. Monday, May 1, 3:00 pm, at Sylvester Park in Olympia, Washington.

Cory Fischer-Hoffman just returned to Olympia after living in Caracas, Venezuela. She is a member of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition in Olympia, Washington.

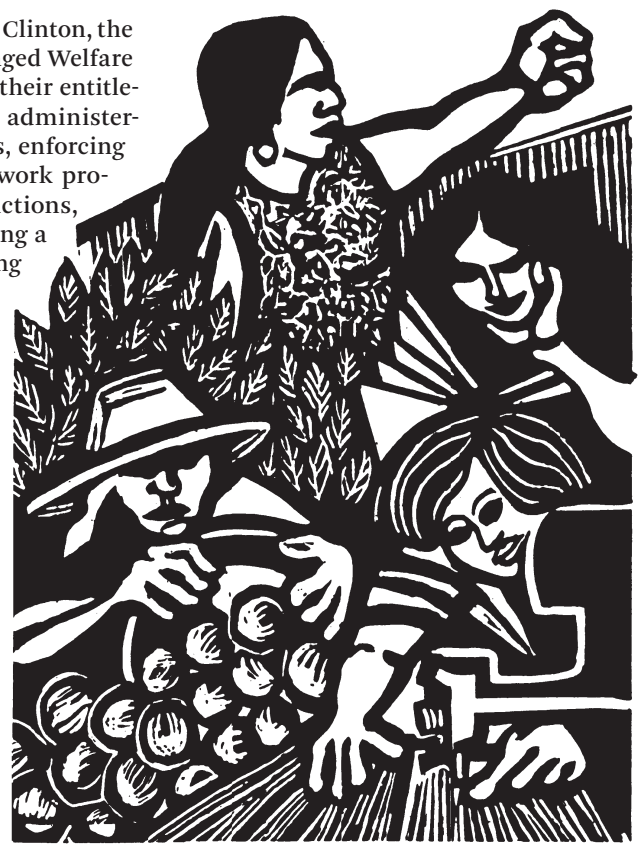


Illustration by Rini Templeton

Stop the criminalization of immigrants!

In December, the US House of Representatives passed legislation that would make felons of the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants and anyone who helps them. Equally racist "guest worker" bills in the Senate promise to control the immigration "threat" through new *bracero* programs that amount to indentured servitude.

Painting immigrants as lawbreakers and potential terrorists, politicians of both parties want to justify the super-exploitation of newcomers and provide native-born working people with scapegoats for their afflictions, from falling wages to the draining of social service dollars. All the while, they are spending $315.8 billion on an imperialist war.

But who are the real criminals? *Not* the desperate young people, workers and families fleeing the ravages of "free trade" and US domination around the world!

The mega-corporations know no borders. *They* are the criminals, lining Mexico's border towns with *maquiladoras* and paying poverty wages—while taking no responsibility for the murders of hundreds of women workers in Juárez, for environmental destruction, or for other devastation caused by their contempt for the people and things that generate their wealth.

But in the streets and the schools, immigrants and their defenders are rising up in a thrilling movement, one with the profound potential to better the lives of *all* working people in the US. We must demand unconditional amnesty for all undocumented immigrants and open borders for working people!

Amnesty is a necessity for current immigrants, but only opening the borders will prevent the criminalization of future immigrants and keep them safe. This would stop employers from using the threat of deportation to sexually exploit women. It would allow families to stay together. It would prevent a repeat of the vile *bracero* program begun during World War II and lasting for two decades.

To win lasting justice and security for immigrants, however, capitalism must go! The liberating solution is *socialism*—a democratic system designed to serve the needs of working people, of all homelands, rather than only the interests of those who profit from their labor.

Issued by the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women

MAY DAY EVENTS

NATIONWIDE

El Gran Paro Americano 2006

"The Great American Boycott 2006"

Un día sin immigrante

"A day without an immigrant"

On May 1, we are calling for **No Work, No School, No Sales, and No Buying.** We are also calling for rallies around symbols of economic trade in your areas (stock exchanges, anti-immigrant corporations, etc.) to protest the anti-immigrant movements across the country.

We will settle for nothing less than full amnesty and dignity for the millions of undocumented workers presently in the US. We believe that increased enforcement is a step in the wrong direction and will only serve to facilitate more tragedies along the Mexican–US border in terms of deaths and family separation.

www.nohr4437.org

IN OLYMPIA

"Hands off" immigrants, workers and families!
3:00 PM
Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia

followed by a May Day Solidarity March

We stand in solidarity with the 40 million+ Immigrant Worker General Strike.

Speakers and sponsors include: Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Bread and Roses, United Communities AIDS Network (UCAN), Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC), Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister County Association (TSTSCA), Schools for Chiapas, Alternatives to CAFTA in Nicaragua, Resist the Grand Jury.

Featuring music by Fast Rattler, Citizens Band (IWW), Rosaura Segura (TSTSCA)

WROC member Cory Fischer-Hoffman will be sharing her experiences in Venezuela working with a successful campaign to recognize Mother's Work As Work!

(WROC Night Out follows in the evening at 7 pm, at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE)

Corporation running for governor in Oregon

interview by Emma Hendrickson

Rich CorporateSon, Inc. is a corporation running in this year's gubernatorial race in Oregon. This unusual candidacy, the creation of the Oregon-based **End Corporate Personhood** (see sidebar, "Behind the Rich CorporateSon, Inc. Candidacy"), highlights the absurdity and dangers of current laws regarding corporate personhood. The campaign website is at *www.VoteCorporate.org*. The following interview is with Rich CorporateSon, Inc.'s campaign manager, Hal Burton.

What is Rich CorporateSon, Inc. and why is it running?

Rich CorporateSon, Inc. is an Oregon chartered corporation (register #35090091) created to take American politics to the next level. As a result of corporate media consolidation, a multibillion dollar a year lobbying industry, and increasingly unregulated campaign finance laws, our government is now run largely by special interests. This is not enough. For the sake of efficiency, we have come together to cut out the middleman, incorporate, and take direct control of the government. It is our dream to create an empire of, by, and for the shareholders.

Would Oregon taxpayers be considered shareholders of the state?

While we fully support the mantra of running government like a business, a strong line must be drawn between the corporate elite and common tax payers. Taxes are, in our ideal setting, a device by which ordinary people finance the subsidies and kickbacks given to members of the elite class. Stocks are, when part of large corporations, a device by which the elite class gain control of the world's resources and further increase the wealth gap. Because the people who hold large shares of corporate stock (only 50% of American households hold any corporate stock) are generally wealthier than average tax-payers, stock holders should be treated with more respect and hold much more power than their more average counterparts.

What special qualifications/experiences would Rich CorporateSon, Inc. bring to the Governor's office and how might the citizens of Oregon benefit?

Corporations have been running the government for years. We largely finance political campaigns (Oregon is one of five states that has no limits on corporate campaign contributions), and often even write the legislation directly. We feel that this is more than enough to justify taking direct control. By allowing the wealthiest persons to buy majority stock, the corporate model guarantees that the richest, and therefore best, people will gain control of operations. This will allow for efficient plutocratic rule of the Oregon executive branch. Through trickle-down democracy, this increase in power to the rich will -somehow- lead to increased rights for poor people...we think.

It seems improbable that increased rights for poor people would be of value to Rich CorporateSon, Inc. Comment?

We do not claim to care for the welfare of the poor; we are simply implying that by dedicating our efforts on improving the quality of life of the rich, poor people's quality of life might also increase. We realize that this makes no sense and are simply following the lead of the equally illogical theory of trickle-down—or "voodoo"—economics espoused by the neocons. If people are willing to elect someone who claims this as their economic policy, we are confident that they will elect us with a similar democratic policy.

If it is elected, it will be the only corporation to ever gain legitimate control over day-to-day activities of a state government as well as great influence in a state's legislature. What would be Governor CorporateSon Inc.'s first order of business?

Our team of economic advisers estimates that once elected, Rich CorporateSon, Inc.'s stock price will skyrocket. Our first day in office will coincide with our Initial Public Offering on the stock market. We are expecting high demand for our stock from the Asian and Middle Eastern markets, as they will want to gain control of our ports. This is a fine example of how free markets can be used to their fullest.

So no "business" that would involve state government or the citizens of Oregon?

Once publicly traded, a corporation is legally required to worry only about the financial interests of its stock holders; after our first day in office, this will be our primary goal. Again, the citizens of Oregon will benefit –in a trickle-down way.

Who are CorporateSon, Inc.'s friends and why are they supporting it?

While Rich CorporateSon, Inc., due to share-holder supremacy, is legally required to only look after the financial interests of its stock holders, we our counting on the support of all of Oregon's richest residents, as well as the organizations to which they belong.

How does Rich CorporateSon, Inc expect to be elected with such a narrow base of support?

These are the wealthiest Oregonians and the only ones who truly matter in modern politics. Due to Oregon's lax campaign finance laws, political campaigns rarely involve the rabble to any important degree. For example, in legislative races, the one who spent more money won 91% of the time, 75% of the money came from only 1% of the contributors, and only 3% of the contributions were in amounts of $50 or less. By raising the most money, we will be able to manipulate the public with savvy ads and flashy campaign events.

Do you think the campaign will be adversely affected by personhood discrimination with voters expecting to see a traditional candidate standing at a podium rather than a crowd in a boardroom?

Well, as you may know, starting in 1886, the Supreme Court has given corporations constitutional rights and protections equal to that of human beings; we therefore believe that any outward discrimination of our candidacy would be in violation of our 14th Amendment right of equal protection.

That said, American citizens—Oregonians included—have already shown their willingness to allow the corporate elite to run their political bodies. All one has to do is look at the current executive, legislative, or judicial branches of government to see that, if America continues on the same path, direct corporate plutocratic control is the logical next step.

Currently, corporations, along with prison inmates and illegal aliens, are not legally able to vote in elections. How does your candidate stand on the issue of corporate suffrage and, should it be elected, will it work toward that end?

First I must say that denying the vote to corporations is a horrible injustice and a stark example of the discriminatory anti-corporate society in which we exist. That said, universal suffrage indicates an election system in which each entity has one vote with which to express its political will. While this idea has its merits, it is the opinion of Rich CorporateSon, Inc. that it cuts too close to communism and must be abolished.

This corporation is presenting an election system in which the Fed, through the time-tested open market system will release voting credits for sale. Each credit, whose price will be determined by the invisible hand of supply and demand, will be publicly traded from the date of release to Election Day, when they will be redeemed for the candidate of the owners' choice. Public trading of vote credits will be done through pre-existing markets and will be available to the global market under WTO regulations.

Elections will become a commercial venture and the average Joe is pushed out of the electoral system. How would you convince the vast majority of citizens to pay taxes or join the military?

The average Joe is already out of the electoral system. The decline of the middle class and a decrease in real income has created a social climate in which keeping up with politics is a virtually impossible task for the average person. We're prepared to take advantage of this situation and count on no one noticing that the needs and motivations of a corporation are not the same as that of a human being.

Was Rich CorporateSon, Inc. ever a member of the armed forces and what was its role, if any, in the Vietnam War?

Rich CorporateSon, Inc. was chartered in March of 2006 and so was not able to be directly involved in the Vietnam War. The larger corporate role in war, Vietnam et al, however, cannot be ignored. We produce the guns, bombs, and chemicals with which neo-capitalist imperial rule is spread across the globe. This corporation views war as a convenient way to raise aggregate demand without driving up the price of labor, and will work to keep America in a constant state of warfare.

Well, as governor of Oregon, Rich CorporateSon, Inc. won't have control of foreign policy, will it?

Though starting in Oregon, our goal is to create an empire beyond the boundaries of the state. Free trade should include power as well as goods and services. As a soon-to-be very rich corporation we will control many levels of government, state and federal, through lobbying and campaign donations. If war is what we want, war is what we'll get.

One last question, if elected, how does Rich CorporateSon, Inc. plan to occupy Mahonia Hall, the Governor's residence? I have a tough time imagining that.

As you know, a corporation is a legal fiction; it exists only because we say it does. It does not require clean air, fresh water, or a house in which to live; these are some of the reasons why corporations are better than people. Since it will not be needed for residential purposes, Mahonia Hall will be converted into offices for use by executive officers.

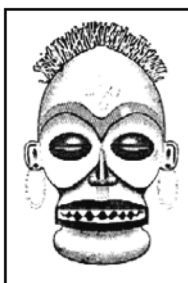
Behind the Rich CorporateSon, Inc. Candidacy

Rich CorporateSon, Inc is a real corporation, incorporated by End Corporate Personhood (ECP) in Oregon. Is it a "real" candidate for governor? Not this year. The spoof political campaign is designed to wake people up to the idiocy and dangers of treating corporations as if they were people.

As silly as it may seem, Shane Parker Alan, ECP's public relations coordinator, is certain that corporate candidacy is a future possibility. He claims corporations have been given the "same constitutional rights and protections as if they were individual human beings." As an example, he related that the Supreme Court ruled big-box stores cannot be voted out of town to protect the local economy. "It would be a violation of the corporation's 14th Amendment right of equal protection." From there he claims it would be reasonable to assume it would also be "a violation of equal protection to prevent them from running for public office."

The ECP views corporate personhood as dangerously undemocratic. They hope that when the public comes to recognize "the underlying threat it poses to society", they will join in ECP's mission—"to take back the constitution and give corporations privileges, not rights, to be granted and revoked at the will of the people."

For more information, visit the ECP website at *www.ecporegon.org*.



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THE EARTH IS CLOSING IN ON US

by Lailia El-Haddad

[*In the two-and-a-half weeks preceding the Tel Aviv suicide bombing of April 17 that killed nine Israeli civilians, the Israeli military killed 26 Palestinians—at least five of them children—and injured 161 more. At the time of this article, Israel had been continuously pounding Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with hundreds of artillery shells per day. Israel has also severely limited the flow of goods to and from the Gaza Strip, in a move designed to freeze the Gazan economy and, as senior Israeli advisor Dov Weissglas joked, put the Palestinians on a diet.*

All of this has received scant attention from the mainstream US press, compared to the Tel Aviv suicide bombing, to which the New York Times *website dedicated a full photo slideshow of the scene of devastation, in addition to full analysis of how the single incident would impact Palestinian and Israeli relations and pondering how the Israeli government would "retaliate."*

Laila al-Haddad runs the Raising Yousuf *blog from Gaza City, at* http://a-mother-from-gaza.blogspot.com]

GAZA CITY, 10 APRIL 2006—The shells keep falling. They've gotten inside my head, so that it's not just my house shaking but but my brain throbbing. It's like someone is banging a gong next to my ear every few minutes; sometimes fives times a minute, like last night. And just when I savor a few moments of silence, it starts again as if to say "you're not going to get away that easily."

We went to sleep to the rattling of our windows and invasive pounding and after-echo of the shells. We sleep as they fall.

We pray fajir, and they fall again. We wake, and they are still falling.

When they are closer, when they fall in Shija'iya east of Gaza City, they make my stomach drop.

And I want to hide, but I don't know where.

The earth is closing in on us.

That's the thing about occupation—it invades even your most private of spaces. And while the shells were falling inside my head, they also killed little Hadil Ghabin today.

A shell landed on her home in Beit Lahiya, shattering her helpless body and injuring five members of her family, including Hadil's pregnant mother, Safia, and her 19-year-old sister.

My headeaches seem inconsequential when I think of little Hadil. Sometimes people here say they prefer death to this existence; you'll frequently here at funerals: "Irta'at...she's more comfortable now anyhow—what was there to live for here?

The earth is squeezing us
I wish we were its wheat
so we could die and live again.

That has become our sad reality. Death provides relief.

Sometimes it feels like we are all in some collective torture room; who is playing God with us this night, I wonder? When I look up into the sky, and hear the shells, or see the faceless helicopter gunships cruising intently through the moonlit sky, I wonder, do they see me?

And when the shells start falling again, I can't help but imagine some beside-himself-with-boredom 18-year-old on the border, lighting a cig or SMS-ing his girlfriend back in Tel Aviv, "Just a few more rounds to go, hon...Give it another whirl, Ron, it's been two minutes already."

Sometimes, when I'm on edge, I might just yell out and wave my arms at them.

Do they hear me?

We decided to escape this evening to my father's farm in central Gaza, where we roasted potatoes and warmed tea on a small *mangal*, as we listened to *thikr* about the Prophet on the occasion of his *mawlid* from a nearby mosque, under the ominous roars of fighter jets, patrolling the otherwise lonely skies above.

"Where are you heading off to?" asked Osama, the shopkeeper downstairs.

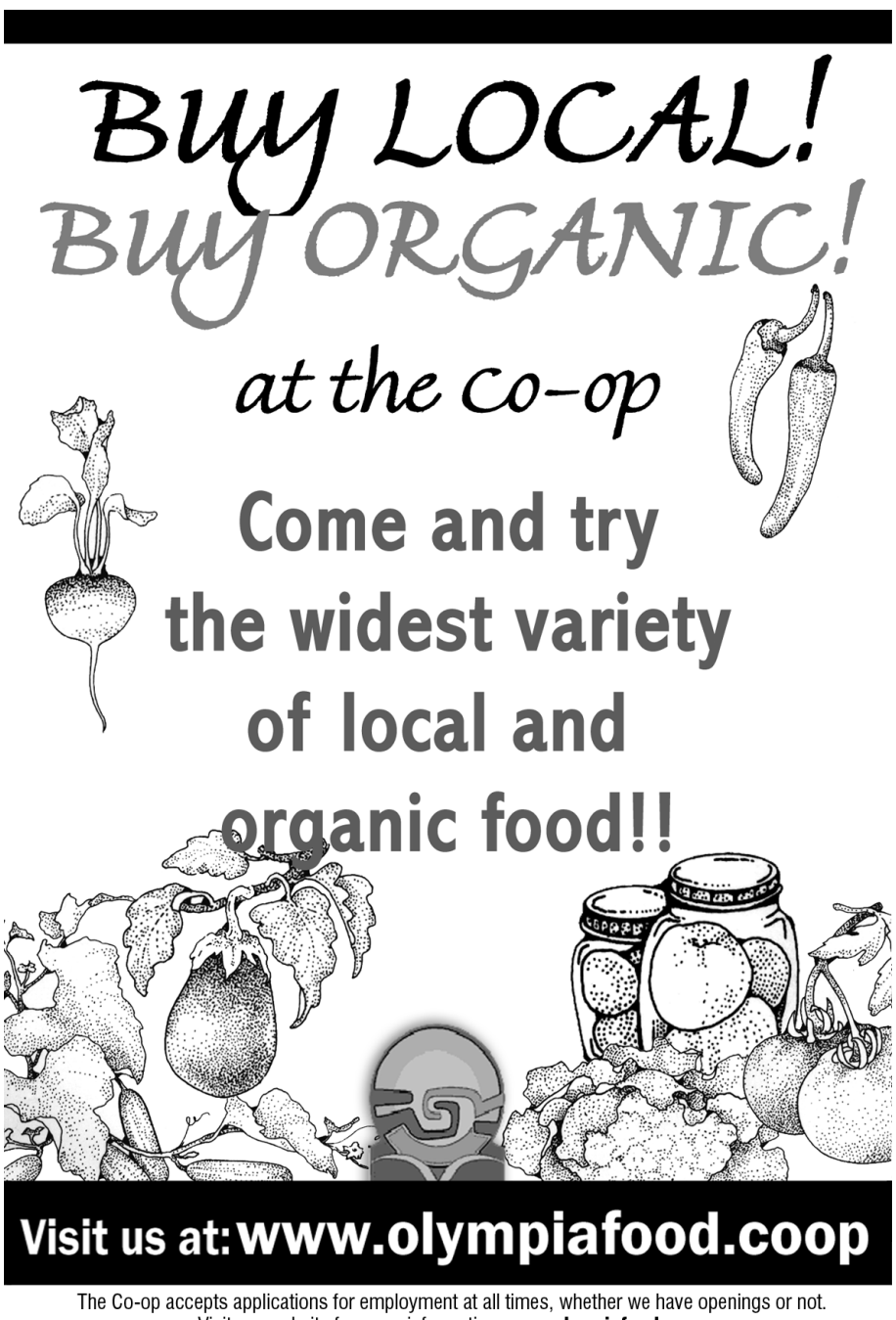
"Off to the farm. We're suffocating," I replied, Yousuf tugging at my arm...

"Mama...Yallah! Yallah!"

"*Wallah* Laila, we're not just suffocating... we're asphyxiating. I feel I can't breathe anymore. And my head is pounding and pounding. All I hear is BOOM boom now."

The earth is closing in on us.

And little Hadil is dead.



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The lobby and the bulldozer

Mearsheimer, Walt and Rachel Corrie

by Norman Solomon

Weeks after a British magazine published a long article by two American professors titled "The Israel Lobby," the outrage continued to howl through mainstream US media.

A *Los Angeles Times* op-ed article by Council on Foreign Relations senior fellow Max Boot helped to set a common tone. He condemned a working paper by professors John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt that was excerpted last month in the *London Review of Books*.

The working paper, Boot proclaimed, is "nutty." And he strongly implied that the two professors—Mearsheimer at the University of Chicago and Walt at Harvard—are anti-Semitic.

Many who went on the media attack did more than imply. On April 3, for instance, the same day that the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reprinted Boot's piece from the *LA Times*, a notably similar op-ed appeared in the *Boston Herald* under the headline "Anti-Semitic Paranoia at Harvard."

And so it goes in the national media echo chamber. When a Johns Hopkins University professor weighed in last week on the op-ed page of the *Washington Post*, the headline was blunt: "Yes, It's Anti-Semitic." The piece flatly called the Mearsheimer–Walt essay "kooky academic work"—and "anti-Semitic."

But nothing in the essay is anti-Semitic.

Some of the analysis from Mearsheimer and Walt is arguable. A number of major factors affect Uncle Sam's Middle East policies in addition to pro-Israel pressures. But no one can credibly deny that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee is one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington, where politicians know that they can criticize Israel only at their political peril.

Overall, the Mearsheimer–Walt essay makes many solid points about destructive aspects of US support for the Israeli government. Their assessments deserve serious consideration.

For several decades, to the present moment, Israel's treatment of Palestinian people has amounted to methodical and despicable violations of human rights. Yet criticism of those policies from anyone (including American Jews such as myself) routinely results in accusations of anti-Jewish bigotry.

The US media reaction to the essay by professors Mearsheimer and Walt provides just another bit of evidence that they were absolutely correct when they wrote: "Anyone who criticizes Israel's actions or argues that pro-Israel groups have significant influence over US Middle Eastern policy—an influence AIPAC celebrates—stands a good chance of being labeled an anti-Semite. Indeed, anyone who merely claims that there is an Israel Lobby runs the risk of being charged with anti-Semitism, even though the Israeli media refer to America's 'Jewish Lobby.' In other words, the Lobby first boasts of its influence and then attacks anyone who calls attention to it. It's a very effective tactic: anti-Semitism is something no one wants to be accused of."

Sadly, few media outlets in the United States are willing to confront this "very effective tactic." Yet it must be challenged. As the London-based *Financial Times* editorialized on the first day of this month: "Moral blackmail—the fear that any criticism of Israeli policy and US support for it will lead to charges of anti-Semitism—is a powerful disincentive to publish dissenting views. It is also leading to the silencing of policy debate on American university campuses, partly as the result of targeted campaigns against the dissenters."

The *Financial Times* editorial noted: "Reflexes that ordinarily spring automatically to the defense of open debate and free enquiry shut down—at least among much of America's political elite—once the subject turns to Israel, and above all the pro-Israel lobby's role in shaping US foreign policy."

The US government's policies toward Israel should be considered on their merits. As it happens, that's one of the many valid points made by Mearsheimer and Walt in their much-vilified essay: "Open debate will expose the limits of the strategic and moral case for one-sided US support and could move the US to a position more consistent with its own national interest, with the interests of the other states in the region, and with Israel's long-term interests as well."

But without open debate, no significant change in those policies can happen. That inertia—stultifying the blood of the body politic by constricting the flow of information and ideas—is antithetical to the kind of democratic discourse that we deserve.

Few other American academics have been willing to expose themselves to the kind of professional risks that John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt took by releasing their provocative paper. And few other American activists have been willing to expose themselves to the kind of risks that Rachel Corrie took when she stood between a Palestinian home and a Caterpillar bulldozer in Gaza three years ago.

The bulldozer, driven by an Israeli army soldier on assignment to demolish the home, rolled over Corrie, who was 23 years old. She had taken a nonviolent position for human rights; she lost her life as a result. But she was rarely praised in the same US media outlets that had gone into raptures over the image of a solitary unarmed man standing in front of Chinese tanks at the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

In sharp contrast to the high-tech killers who run the Israeli military apparatus and the low-tech killers who engage in suicide bombings, Rachel Corrie put her beliefs into practice with militant nonviolence instead of carnage. She exemplified the best of the human spirit in action; she was killed with an American-brand bulldozer in the service of a US-backed government.

As her parents, Cindy and Craig Corrie, said in a statement on her birthday a few weeks after she died: "Rachel wanted to bring attention to the plight of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, a people she felt were largely invisible to most Americans."

In the United States, the nonstop pro-Israel media siege aims to keep them scarcely visible.

▸ **Green Scare** continued from page 1

faces and say that the radical fringe of the environmental movement is the number one domestic threat to our national security is just outrageous. The founding fathers were very clear in writing that the duty of a citizen in an unjust society is to refuse to cooperate with the injustice."

Traditionally, the people of the United States have cherished their right to dissent. As historian Howard Zinn notes, when the patriots of 1773 felt unfairly treated by the ruling British government, they rebelled. The most famous example of early American sabotage was the Boston Tea Party. Early direct actions include the Stamp Act protests of 1765, numerous acts of civil disobedience by slaves and abolitionists, strikes, and sit-ins—all of which violated private property laws, but won rights for colonists, workers, and African Americans, and which we consider "basic human rights" today. Despite this honorable tradition, today's Patriot Act distorts the freedom that our patriot ancestors fought for.

Threat level: GREEN

Crafting the eco-terrorist myth

The Homeland Security "Citizen Advisory System" conveniently distills the nation's "terrorist threat level" into a color-coded system, not dissimilar from weather-report icons. The "lowest risk" point on the scale is aptly colored green. Environmentalists couldn't agree more. In fact, they see themselves more as caped crusaders—selflessly risking life and limb to protect the planet and its inhabitants.

In 1989, a multi-year FBI Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) sting—complete with paid agent provocateurs and costing over $2 million—entrapped four Earth First!ers, and framed the perceived leader of EF!, Dave Foreman. Ilse Asplund speaks about the Arizona action, for which she was arrested and imprisoned: "I was involved in trying, very actively, to stop uranium mining and development on the San Francisco peaks—which is a mountain that is held sacred to twelve indigenous tribes that live in the area. One of the actions that we did was cut down some power lines to the Canyon Uranium Mine, which is situated at Red Butte—land that is sacred to the Havasupai and is essential to their creation story and the enactment of their ceremonies.

"Our legal system has a very hard time dealing with land as anything other than as a commodity, to be transferred into wealth to put in the pockets of certain individuals. And many people pay dearly for that transfer of natural resources and wealth. I felt that it was extremely important to make a statement that there are values in the land that support and nourish us that are above and beyond the rights of commodification."

Rather than threatening human life, the Arizona 5 were motivated by a human, as well as environmental, threat. Dozens of Navajo people in Arizona have died prematurely of mining-related diseases, and passed on genetic defects after the first wave of uranium mining on their reservation in the late 1950s. "You look around the reservation and see so many elderly people who are crippled and can barely breathe," said Robert Stewart, Sr. of Tuba City, a Navajo who worked for five years in a mine in the mid- to late-1950s. "This pretty much devastated much of a generation."

Today's ELF and ALF strongly advocate "equality, social justice and compassion for all life." An equal respect for life is expressed in the *Earth First! Journal*'s definition of monkeywrenching: "nonviolent resistance to the destruction of natural diversity and wilderness. It is never directed against human beings or other forms of life. It is aimed at inanimate machines and tools that are destroying life. Care is always taken to minimize any possible threat to people, including the monkeywrenchers themselves."

However, the competitive "man vs. nature" mythology appears quite rooted in the industry viewpoint. A February 2006 article entitled "Who Will Defend Industry Against Eco-Terrorism," which appears in none other than *Capitalism Magazine*, provides a glimpse. Author and resident fellow of the Ayn Rand Institute Onkar Ghate asserts, "Environmental terrorism is a consistent expression of environmentalism's worship of wilderness. By making the preservation of untouched nature the ideal, environmentalism necessarily makes man, who survives by exploiting nature, the enemy."

Ghate believes "the ideology of environmentalism is not concerned with improving man's life on earth. If it were, it would not oppose but champion industrial progress—luxury homes, dams, highways, bioengineering, food irradiation, etc.—and the individuals who create it." He goes on to warn, "If we value our lives, we must never make common cause with environmentalism, no matter how appealing a particular environmentalist project may seem. We must fight not only against particular environmental terrorists but also against the ideology that inspires them. But even more important, we must fight for rational values: man's life and industrial civilization."

Gov't response to comparable crimes

Environmentalists as "number one" in the domestic terrorism lineup flies in the face of unsolved, and in many cases uninvestigated, crimes that better fit under the moniker of "terrorism"—including 7400 hate crimes, and 450 (corporate) environmental crimes threatening workers, public health, or the environment. Sabotage/vandalism crimes committed *without* political motivation receive far shorter sentences. And those with political motivation from the right-wing side of the spectrum somehow escape the limelight.

According to Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, "In the last 10 years or so, we have seen on the order of 60 major domestic terrorist plots coming from the radical right…aimed at…in many cases, mass murder…of human beings. One of these plots—a plot to blow up a natural gas refinery by some Klansmen in Texas in 1997—would have resulted in…the deaths of some 30,000 people. The kind of fringes of the animal rights and environmental movements, on the other hand, while they engaged in arson and those kinds of acts, have killed…no one. I think what the Patriot Act has the effect of doing is taking things like arson, which might have been punished by a few years in prison, and raised them to the level of bona fide international terrorism. That's a bit of a frightening development."

> The government is threatening the environmentalists with extraordinary sentences ranging from 30 years to life – plus 335 years.

Meanwhile Michael Fortier, who was convicted for his involvement in planning the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people, was released from jail on January 20, 2006—coincidentally occurring the same day as several Green Scare arrests. Fortier served 10 years. In contrast, the government is threatening the environmentalists with extraordinary sentences ranging from 30 years to life – plus 335 years.

Where unchecked power is headed

In post 9–11 America, questioning official policy is considered suspicious activity—even for those "working within the system". Victims of warrantless spying include Quakers, Code Pink, and Greenpeace, to name a few. Bob Goodman, the Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, illustrates how broad the government's scope of dissent-quashing spreads: "There's a Quaker meeting in Florida, for example, which was infiltrated and spied upon by the FBI and the Department of Defense. These are the Quakers, and the reason they were targeted was because they went around to high schools and talked against military recruitment. But even if we don't agree with that, this is activity that is traditionally a part of robust free speech in the United States."

Goodman talks about the ramifications of the government's re-definition of "domestic terrorism": "The legal definition of terrorism is clear. It is the use of illegal mechanisms—mechanisms that are criminal under American law—in order to affect public policy. This is a very disturbing turn in American jurisprudence…because it says that people who, for example, engage in trespass, in a sit-in, when they're told to leave a lunch counter, or sitting in a nuclear facility—that because they're attempting to change public policy, are guilty of the crime of terrorism. Under this definition, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and many other great people—great Americans—would have been guilty of terrorism. And that's absurd.

"…[T]o call it terrorism means that you're importing this idea…into the notion of domestic political protest. So that people who are protesting now become, not political protesters (and if they commit a crime, they need to be charged with a crime, and convicted of it if that's the evidence), now they're terrorists. This means that now we can loosen all the constitutional guarantees…in order to go after these political protesters.

"…[O]nce there are 'terrorists' inside the United States, why can't they be tortured? Under what circumstances will that be acceptable? And once someone is defined as a 'terrorist', or attempting to help a 'terrorist', it's a short step, if a step at all, to being an 'enemy combatant'—which means indefinite detention—which means there's nothing to prevent them from dumping these people in Guantanamo so that there are no trials at all. That is the direction which this government is moving. And it's terrifying."

Grand jury 101

Grand juries were originally formed to create a filter to stop unjustified felony cases at an early stage. Unlike a trial jury, which decides whether a suspect is guilty, a grand jury merely decides whether there's probable cause to prosecute. Unfortunately, somewhere along the way, it all went very wrong.

Grand juries actually function as modern-day inquisitions, and can include the following: detention and interrogation without probable cause; suspension of 1st, 4th, 5th (through forced immunity), and 6th amendments of the Bill of Rights; a defense attorney's presence is forbidden; no judge is present; and the jury is not screened for bias. Those subpoenaed to testify are pressured under threat of imprisonment for the duration of the grand jury (usually a maximum of 18 months) if they decline. Any line of questioning can be pursued, regardless of its relevance to the indictment. Grand juries are used by prosecutors to cast a wide net into an entire community—gathering names, contact information, associations, personal history, romantic interests—in short, anything that can be used against activists and their community.

A common association with the word "indictment" is "guilty". *The Oxford American Dictionary*'s two definitions explain why: "Indictment (*n.*)—(1) a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime; (2) something which illustrates that a system or situation is bad and deserves to be condemned." A contradiction exists within the word itself—one who is indicted is both "accused" and "guilty." Thus the vilification of a grand jury indictment, in effect, denies the accused their right to a presumption of innocence until a trial.

Resist the grand jury: it works!

In a September 2004 law enforcement analysis, authors Randy Borum of the University of South Florida and Chuck Tilby of the Eugene, Oregon Police Department admit, "Although Grand Jury investigations are routinely successful against criminals, they have been less successful against activists and 'true believers.' The criminal is generally motivated solely by his or her own self-interest, whereas activists are often more concerned with their beliefs and the effects their actions may have on others and on the movement more generally."

Former Black Panthers Ray Boudreaux, John Bowman, Richard Brown, Hank Jones, and Harold Taylor, were subpoenaed to the San Francisco Grand Jury in October 2005, but refused to cooperate. In an attempt to coerce testimony, the government then imprisoned the five in Bay Area jails for the life of the Grand Jury. However, they all remained strong, resistant, and non-cooperative throughout, and all were released the next month.

What can we do?

(Your rights: use 'em or lose 'em)

For starters, we can follow the Department of Homeland Security's Security Advice to Corporations—simply substituting the word "community" for "corporate or company" and "recycling" for "trash":

(1) Encrypt outgoing electronic communication and attachments.

(2) Implement a process to periodically change users' computer passwords.

(3) Install firewalls and continuously test systems to ensure hackers do not penetrate systems.

(4) Install locks on all doors, filing cabinets and overhead storage areas.

(5) Protect corporate rosters to prevent extremists from acquiring personal information such as organization structure, employee names, positions, phone numbers, email addresses, and home addresses.

(6) Never discuss proprietary information with anyone without a need to know. Suspicious inquiries should be reported immediately. Inquiries may appear innocent at first, but gradually become more detailed.

(7) Protect itineraries, vacation dates, locations, and reservations when traveling. Targeting can occur at any time and in areas outside the work place and residence.

(8) Always shred documents rather than throwing them in the trash. Seemingly innocuous information can be used to answer questions or fill information gaps that could later be used to target a company or employee.

What to do if the FBI knocks on your door…

…to "just ask a few questions"

Remember the magic words: "I am going to remain silent. I would like to see a lawyer". If your memory is prone to failure, attorney and anti-nuclear activist, Katya Komisaruk, recommends tattooing this mantra on a visible body part.

Take notes: time & date of visit; any information you have (name; physical descriptions; car make, model, color, license plate); anything about how the conversation went. Take their business card, if offered.

…with a subpoena

You are not required to open your door for anyone. The server is legally required to hand it to you or can throw it at your feet if you are in the same room.

…if they ask to search your home, car or belongings

Ask for a search warrant and ensure it explicitly matches their search. If they do not have a warrant or there is a mistake on it, say: "I do not consent to a search." If they have a legitimate search warrant, you are required to cooperate, but still have the right to remain silent (remember the tattoo).

Report all FBI knocking campaign "visits" to the Olympia Civil Liberties Resource: (360) 556-6878, *olycivlib@riseup.net*.

Learn about the history of COINTELPRO and FBI entrapment, and take common sense precautions against infiltration—without succumbing to the paralyzing fear that results in inaction.

For more information

See the books *Beat the Heat: How to Handle Encounters with Law Enforcement*, by Katya Komisaruk (AK Press, 2003), and *War at Home: Covert Action Against US Activists and What We Can Do About It*, by Brian Glick (South End Press, 1989).

Also visit the following websites: *www.olycivlib.org*, *www.ecoprisoners.org*, *www.fbiwitchhunt.com*, *www.cldc.org*, *http://portland.indymedia.org/en/future/greenscare*

For videos, *sourcecode.freespeech.org*

Melissa Roberts is an Olympia-based activist who worked from 1992–94 as Administrator for Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's civil rights lawsuit against the FBI and Oakland Police Department. In 2002, the jury found that the agencies violated the activists' Constitutional rights, and mishandled the still unsolved 1990 car bombing that nearly killed Bari.

Regime change, a national sport

by Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman

Hawaii, Cuba, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Iran, Guatemala, South Vietnam, Chile, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq.

What do these 14 governments have in common?

You got it. The United States overthrew them. And in almost in every case, the overthrow can be traced to corporate interests.

In Hawaii, the sugar companies didn't want to pay export duties—so they overthrew the queen of Hawaii and made it part of the United States. In Guatemala, United Fruit wanted Arbenz out. Out he went. In Chile, Allende offended the copper interests. Allende—dead. In Iran, Mossadegh offended major oil interests. Mossadegh out. In Nicaragua, Jose Santos Zelaya was bothering American lumber and mining companies. Zelaya—out. In Honduras, an American banana magnate organized the coup of the Honduran government. And on down the list.

Democratic Party critics charge that, by violently overthrowing governments, the Bush administration is ripping the United States from a long history of diplomacy.

Not true, says former *New York Times* foreign correspondent Stephen Kinzer. Kinzer says that in fact the opposite is true.

"Actually, the United States has been overthrowing governments for more than a century," Kinzer said in an interview. He documents this in a new book, *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq* (Times Books, 2006).

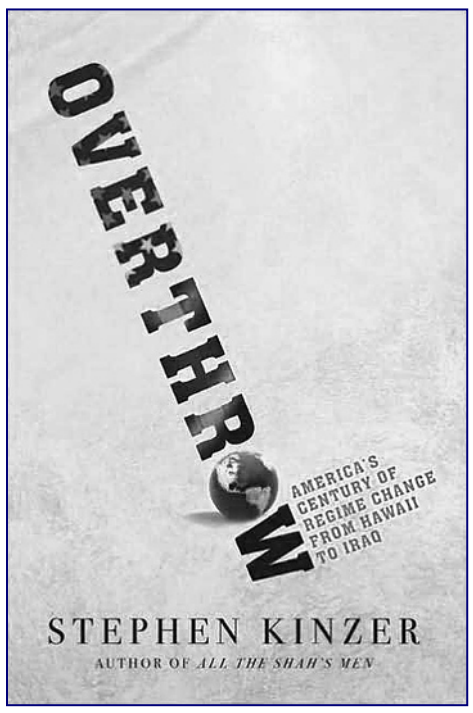
Overthrow is the third in a series of regime change books by Kinzer. His previous two are *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror* (2003), and *Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala* (1982). All together they would make a remarkable "regime change" boxed set for the holidays.

Kinzer left the *Times* last year. He says that the parting was "perfectly amicable"—although he doesn't sound convincing when he says this. What is clear is that Kinzer is not comfortable with establishment rationales for the American imperial project. This became clear during an interview Kinzer gave on NPR's *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross earlier this month. Gross tried to get Kinzer to concede that if we hadn't overthrown these governments, the Soviets would have taken over, or today, radical Islam will take over. Kinzer didn't give an inch.

For example, Gross said that had we not overthrown these 14 governments, "the Soviets might have won the Cold War." "I don't think that's true at all," Kinzer responded. "In the first place, the countries whose governments we overthrew, all countries that we claimed were pawns of the Kremlin, actually were nothing of the sort. We now know, for example, that the Kremlin had not the slightest interest in Guatemala at all in the early 1950s. They didn't even know Guatemala existed. They didn't even have diplomatic or economic relations."

"The leader of Iran who we overthrew was fiercely anti-communist. He came from an aristocratic family. He despised Marxist ideology." "In Chile, we always portrayed President Allende as a cat's paw of the Kremlin. We now know from documents that have come out that the Soviets and the Chinese were constantly fighting with him and urging him to calm down and not be so provocative towards the Americans. So, in the first place, the Soviets were not behind those regimes. We completely overestimated the influence of the Soviet Union on those regimes."

When Gross asked Kinzer what he thought of the "spread of radical Islam," Kinzer didn't hesitate. "We sometimes like to think that our interventions in these countries don't have effects, but when we break down the doors of foreign countries and impose our own leaders, as we did in Iran and as we've recently done in Iraq, we outrage a lot of people," Kinzer said. "We like to think that everybody will soon calmly come to realize that by rational standards, this was a good thing to do. But that doesn't happen. We are not able to change cultures as easily as we are able to change regimes."



The United States had a hand in many other overthrows, but Kinzer limited his cases to those where the United States was the primary mover and shaker. So, for example, while the United States played a role in the overthrow of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, Kinzer says that it was primarily an operation by Belgium on behalf of large Belgian mining interests.

This might be the most important book to read as the United States approaches a showdown with Iran. President Bush says he's trying to bring democracy to Iran. In fact, Iranians had democracy once. And we crushed it.

Kinzer is on tour promoting his book. And he's got a gig at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he lives. He's teaching a course in regime change.

Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, DC-based Corporate Crime Reporter (www.corporatecrimereporter.com). *Robert Weissman is editor of the DC-based Multinational Monitor* (www.multinationalmonitor.org). *Mokhiber and Weissman are co-authors of* On the Rampage: Corporate Predators and the Destruction of Democracy *(Common Courage Press).*

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For a donation of $5 or more, the **Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition** (WROC) will send a beautiful Mother's Day card to a mother of your choice. We have three beautiful designs, all featuring paintings by local single mothers. This year's card celebrates **article 88 of the Venezuelan constitution** that recognizes mother's work as work! Any mother will appreciate one of these cards and a donation in her name to WROC, a nonprofit organization that empowers low income parents. Call WROC or visit WROC to order your Mother's Day card today! We are located in the Payne room of the First Christian Church, 701 Franklin Street SE, and can be reached at (360) 352-9716 or *wrocoly@wroc.org*.

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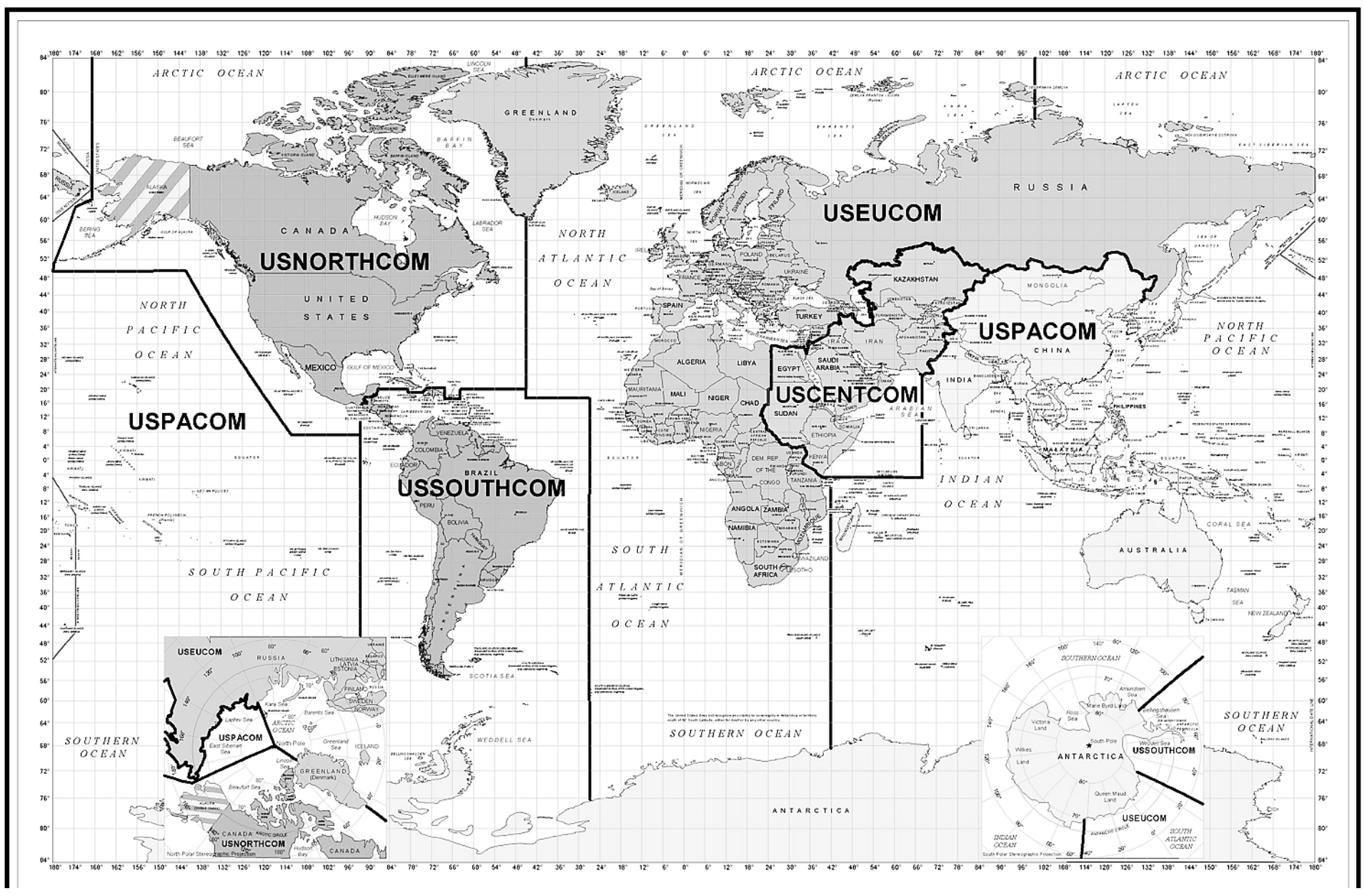
The United States is the only country to divide the entire planet into areas of military control. Pictured below are the jurisdictions of the various "Unified Commands": Northern Command, Southern Command, Pacific Command, European Command, and Central Command. Not pictured is Strategic Command (STRATCOM), which is in charge of outer space. (*source: US Department of "Defense"*)

THE WORLD 1:135,000,000

THE WORLD WITH COMMANDERS' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

EDITION 5-NIMA SERIES 1107
Based on Unified Command Plan February 2002



Provocative humanitarianism?

Bashing Hugo Chávez at the *New York Times*

by Dave Lindorff

What do you call a nation that provides medical aid to desperately poor people in Mexico, heating assistance to low-income families in the US, crucial project financing to some of the poorest countries in Africa, and aid to impoverished Caribbean island nations?

If you're the *New York Times*, you call it "provocative," and you call the leader of that country "the next Fidel Castro."

Venezuela, under President Hugo Chávez, has been turning its increasingly valuable oil reserves into an engine for development, not just in Venezuela, where the revenues are being used to finance schools, housing and job creation for the nation's long-suffering and long-ignored poor, but also across Latin America, in the process creating a new model for Latin America-one which challenges the imperial domination of the United States.

In an April 4 page one article that reeks of Cold War rhetoric, *Times*man Juan Forero warns that with Venezuela's oil revenues rising 32 percent last year, Venezuela's foreign aid spending "now surpasses the nearly $2 billion Washington allocates annually to pay for development programs and the drug war in western South America." (The drug war is foreign aid?)

Quoting only Chávez critics—both political opponents within Venezuela, and US government and right-wing think tank members in the US—Forero paints an ominous picture of a budding threat to US influence in the Americas.

The most appalling quote comes from John Negroponte, the overall director of intelligence services in the US, and a man with a long history of meddling in the affairs of, and indeed subverting the governments of nations in Latin America. Mr. Chávez is "spending considerable sums involving himself in the political and economic life of other countries in Latin America and elsewhere, this despite the very real economic development and social needs of his own country," Negroponte is quoted as telling Forero.

This from an official of a nation that has so far wasted $500 billion destroying a nation in the Middle East, that is making preparations for going to war against yet another nation in the Middle East, that has subverted nations from the Tierra del Fuego to the Yucatán, including Venezuela, and that, it must be noted, has been for years ignoring "very real economic development and social needs" inside its own borders.

> Imagine a Philadelphia where poor people didn't have to depend upon handouts of cheap oil from Venezuela to keep their apartments warm through the winter because of federal cuts in heating oil assistance programs.

Given the fact that no one has accused Chávez of any of the kind of subversive or heavy-handed pressure of the kind for which the US has become notorious—only of providing much needed financial aid to less fortunate countries—what exactly is so awful about a an oil-rich country like Venezuela spreading the wealth?

The only negative things Forero can seem to come up with are that Chávez has been derisive of President Bush, referring to him in speeches as a "donkey," "drunkard" and "coward," and that right-wing critics have accused him of "mismanagement" and "populist decadence." Heck, Bush faces worse invective than that at home.

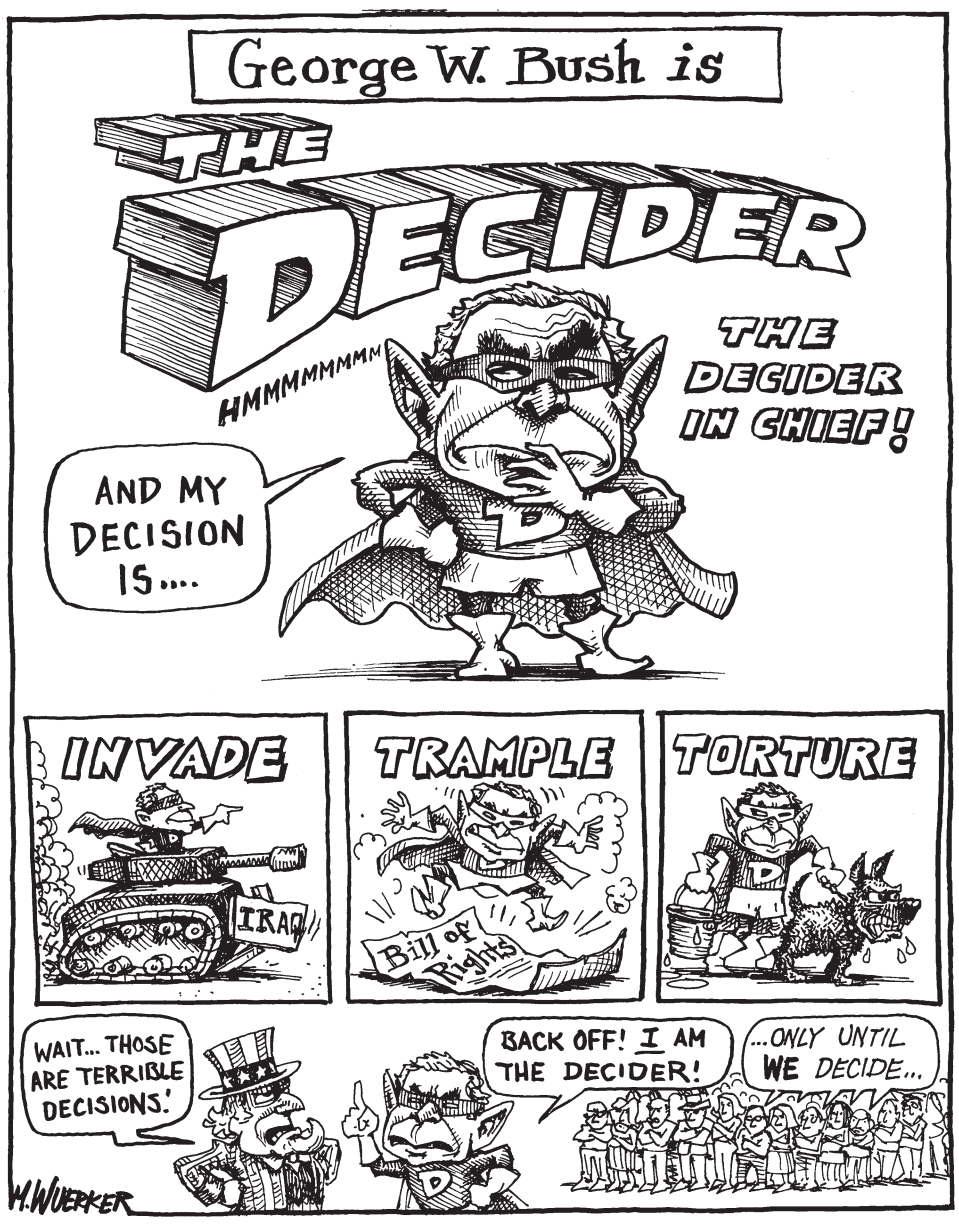
Even the comparisons between Chávez, the twice-elected leader of Venezuela, and Castro, the aging dictator of Cuba, are tendentious at best. Cuba, desperately poor and the victim of decades of US trade embargo and subversion policies, has admittedly on occasion offered at least rhetorical support for anti-US rebels, as in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Chávez, while openly espousing anti-imperialist views and seeking to challenge US dominance in Latin America, has never been accused of fomenting rebellion in the region. Indeed, if there is anything about Castro's Cuba that Venezuela under Chávez has been emulating it has been Cuba's commendable practice of furnishing doctors and teachers to needy regions of Latin America.

Would that the US would engage in more of this kind of "influence peddling," and less of the kind that involves arms sales, military bases and the training of secret police in the fine art of torture.

Imagine a Latin America where the US and Venezuela vied in seeing who could provide more doctors for the peasants of Guatemala and Brazil, or who could provide lower-interest loans for water projects in Bolivia or Ecuador. Imagine, for that matter, a Philadelphia where poor people didn't have to depend upon handouts of cheap oil from Venezuela to keep their apartments warm through the winter because of federal cuts in heating oil assistance programs.

Imagine, while we're at it, a *New York Times* that could write a front page article about the wasteful militarism of America's increasingly dictatorial President George W. Bush, juxtaposed against the unmet "economic development and social needs of his own country."

Dave Lindorff is the author of Killing Time: an Investigation into the Death Row Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. *His new book of CounterPunch columns titled* This Can't be Happening! *is published by Common Courage Press. Lindorff's latest book,* The Case for Impeachment, *co-authored by Barbara Olshansky, is due out May 1. He can be reached at* dlindorff@yahoo.com.



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HOW SWEET IT IS!

WIP's 16-year anniversary

by Sandy Mayes

What a great year it has been for *Works In Progress*! It was one year ago this month—our 15-year anniversary—that we put out a call to renew the sense of mission and the collective sense of ownership, responsibility, and community collaboration that gave birth to this newspaper. And the community came through.

The Layout Team: By far the most exciting new development at *WIP* is the formation of our new Layout Team. It's been almost one year since Phan Nguyen and Melissa Roberts joined our all-volunteer collective, each contributing both a high level of technical support and exceptional talent in graphic layout artistry. Their participation and contribution to this project has had an immeasurably energizing effect on the collective—and one outcome for you, the reader, is the snazzy new look of the paper you now hold in your hand.

An Engaged Readership: More than most communities, ours is one in which people demand to participate in the decisions that affect their lives—and that culture of citizen engagement has been reflected on these pages. It is an active collaboration between the readership and the members of the *WIP* collective that sustains this project: a free and independent forum for voices and views often ignored or misrepresented by the corporate media. Local democracy depends on grassroots media projects like this one, and such projects can only thrive in an engaged community like ours.

Financial Gifts: *WIP* has received a number of generous gifts this year—from individuals as well as organizations. And it's a good thing because without them we would have been in deep trouble. Many thanks to the **Community Sustaining Fund** for $400 toward the purchase of a desperately needed laser printer. (Seriously, we were running to Kinko's in the wee hours before going to press each month.) The one we found on eBay is a real gem. And thanks as well to the **Olympia Food Co-op** for the one-time gift of $350—and for their many years of support through advertising. And to *all* our regular advertisers ... your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

These gifts, along with donations from individual community members, helped to compensate for the one area where we still need significant improvement: finances. Even with an all-volunteer staff, it costs several hundred dollars per month to produce this newspaper. These costs are only partly met through advertising. If you depend on *Works In Progress*, this free and independent community forum, we must ask you to contribute financially. As always, you can refer to page 2 for information about subscriptions and donations. You can also now visit our new website at **www.olywip.org/wip** and **make a donation through our new PayPal link** (which should be up and running by the time we go to press).

Join the *WIP* collective: If you are someone who values this resource, believes in its mission, and can commit to participating in one or more of the many tasks needed to make it happen every month, there is a welcoming place for you in this collective. We are especially in need of people with good proofreading skills, website management skills, and someone who can take on a delivery route. Give us a call or send an email to discuss how you might plug in.

Very few communities are either fortunate or resourceful enough to have a newspaper like *Works In Progress*. It has taken a special kind of synergy between the community and the *WIP* collective to keep this project going for sixteen years. This has been an especially good year...May we have many more.

Sandy Mayes is the WIP *content and production coordinator. To contact* WIP *call* **(360) 956-1136** *or write* **wip@zhonka.net**

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